

Amendments to the Specification:

In the specification, please amend the Abstract as follows:

Magnetic particles are prepared containing a magnetic core coated with an outer a glass layer surface being essentially poreless or having a substantially pore-free glass surface or having pores of with a diameter of less than than 10 nm as well as ferromagnetic particles with a glass surface are preferentially useful for the isolation of . The particles are used for separating biological material from samples such as nucleic acids. They provide a quick and reliable purification. A preferred process of preparing the particles is by forming a mixture of magnetic cores with a sol formed from an alcohol and a metal alkoxide, spray-drying the mixture to coat the cores with a layer of gelled sol, and heating the coated cores to obtain the magnetic glass particles. Preferably, the particles have an average particle size of less than 100 um. The magnetic core may be a composite material containing a mica core and magnetite particles immobilized on the mica core, and the glass layer may contain boron oxide. Magnetic core materials include magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ .